

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board

March 11, 2015 Work Session

Present: Dr. Stephen Tower, Chairman; Jill Madajczyk, Member; Taurus Bailey, Member; Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary; Mr. James Rogers, Administrator Memphis Animal Services, Dekeishia Tunstall, Operations Manager Memphis Animal Services

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tower.

Mr. Rogers presented his report to the Board. Statistics presented will be posted to the web after the meeting.

Mr. Rogers reported that the live release rate for February was 65% which is a first time high for the live release rate.

Dr. Tower asked if the number of visitors reported for February was an increase as the live release rate was an increase. Mr. Rogers reported that the increase in visitors supported the increase in live releases.

Mr. Rogers reported there were days during February that no animals were euthanized as in every month recently.

Dr. Tower reviewed some of the euthanasia logs and reported that the ones he reviewed seemed in order.

Dr. Tower asked Mr. Rogers if surgeries were up to date at the current time. Mr. Rogers reported that surgeries were up to date.

Mr. Rogers was asked about the status of the x-ray machine in the clinic as it is often out of order. Mr. Rogers reported that the updating of Oracle software through the City computer system throws the x-ray machine software off, and the x-ray machine has to be reset by technical staff from downtown every time the update occurs. Jeanne Chancellor asked if the machine could be taken off-line so it would always be in use. Mr. Rogers stated he would check and see what the ramifications of being off line would be for use of the machine. Jeanne Chancellor stated that having a machine that only worked part of the time due to software issues was not in the best interest of the animals.

Dr. Tower asked about the current staffing in the clinic. Mr. Rogers reported that the clinic now has two full-time technicians and two part-time technicians that rotate throughout the week. He reported that there are two veterinarians in the clinic Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. One tech is in the clinic Sunday with one veterinarian. The other shelter technicians provide cleaning support when possible to help keep the clinic staff from cleaning the area.

Dr. Tower asked Mr. Rogers about staffing openings. Mr. Rogers reported that there are five open part-time technician positions budgeted for which are currently open. There are also three full-time technician vacancies. These positions are being posted on the city website.

Dr. Tower asked if animals are put on the euthanasia list the evening before their euthanasia is scheduled. Mr. Rogers reported that the euthanasia list is made in the morning. This enables emails and phone calls to be checked for last minute rescue requests for the animals. Mr. Rogers reported that animals are being held through their review date when possible. This is determined by the census in the shelter. When open cages are available every effort is made to hold the animal longer if healthy.

Mr. Rogers reported that Memphis Animal Services Animal Control Officers will be attending advanced NACA training in Collierville at a cost of \$500.00 per officer.

Dr. Tower asked if there is a board or some other means visible to the employees which keeps track of how many days the Shelter has operated without euthanizing an animal incorrectly. Dr. Tower stated he felt a visual record for the employees may help. Ms. Tunstall reported that she has the number of days since a euthanasia mistake on a board in her office.

Taurus Bailey brought up the discussion of his idea of an ad-hoc committee of citizens (3-5 people) to meet and bring their ideas/concerns to the Advisory Board. He envisions this committee to be a cooperative group to voice their concerns about Shelter operations to the Advisory Board. Jeanne Chancellor asked if the members of this committee would be people who live within the area served by Memphis Animal Services. Mr. Bailey stated he did not feel that would need to be a requirement. The concerns of this committee would be fed to the Board. Mr. Bailey stated he felt the outcome from this committee would help bring concerns forward to the Board and eventually make the open meetings more productive. The committee would have access to Memphis Animal Services for visits to help the committee understand the workings of the shelter. The Board agreed to take this under consideration and further discuss at a future meeting.

Taurus Bailey brought up his idea to have court hold animals fostered rather than spending months sitting in cages at the Shelter. He will meet shortly with Judge Potter and District Attorney Amy Weirich to work out the details of the proposed program. Jeanne Chancellor asked about who would make the decision which animals were available for the program and the Shelter's liability. She expressed concern that there is always a possibility of an animal getting away from a foster home, and what the ramification would be due to the animals being held for evidence. She also asked about who would be responsible for medical care. Under the current foster program, the foster home is fully responsible for the cost of medical care for the animals while in foster care. Taurus Bailey reported that the animals chosen for foster care would be made by the courts, and an order signed by a judge sending the animal to foster care. Medical care and other issues will be decided after Mr. Bailey's meeting with Judge Potter and Attorney General Weirich.

Mr. Bailey reported that Linda Delaney at University of Memphis is interested in an internship at Memphis Animal Services to help with media exposure for the Shelter. Tennessee Tech would be a back-up for this plan. Mr. Rogers reported that there would be meetings in mid-April to discuss media help for the Shelter.

Taurus Bailey asked if there is a check-list for duties performed throughout the shelter. Mr. Rogers reported that there are logs in every area that are checked by employees as work is done. There are also logs signed by supervisors when the areas are inspected.

Jill Madajczyk make a motion the work session be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Chancellor.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor

Secretary